

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01188 040726Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 /016 W
-----040728Z 017408 /11
P 040710Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2734
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1188

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, TW
SUBJECT: MUSHROOMS

REF: 76 STATE 310542

1. DIRECTOR OF BOARD OF FOREIGN TRADE Y.T. WONG TELEPHONED ECON COUN MARCH 4 TO ASK IF EMBASSY HAD ANY WORD ON STATUS OF ITC RECOMMENDATION THAT TARIFF QUOTA BE INTRODUCED ON IMPORTED CANNED MUSHROOMS. WONG GAVE AS REASON FOR HIS INQUIRY A TELEPHONE CALL ON MARCH 3 FROM T.W. HU AT ROC EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. HU REPORTEDLY TOLD WONG THAT STR HAD ASKED HIM TO FIND OUT IF ROC WOULD AGREE TO LIMIT MUSHROOM EXPORTS TO US DURING FY-1978(JULY 1, 1977- JUNE 30, 1978) TO LEVEL OF EXPORTS IN FY-1977. HU REPORTEDLY COMMENTED THAT IF ROC WERE WILLING TO DO THIS TARIFF QUOTA SYSTEM WOULD NOT BE IMPOSED. ACCORDING TO WONG, HU STATED THAT STR MUST HAVE ROC RESPONSE BY MARCH 5.

2. WONG TOLD ECON COUN THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET DEADLINE IMPOSED BY STR. TAIWAN MUSHROOM PACKERS UNITED EXPORT CORPORATION (TMPUEC) HAS OVER 100 MEMBERS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND. EARLIEST WONG CAN GET THEM TOGETHER IS MARCH 8. HE ANTICIPATES DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING AGREEMENT FROM PACKERS TO LIMIT EXPORTS TO FY-1977 LEVEL IN THE ABSENCE
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OF INFORMATION THAT KOREA ALSO IS WILLING TO LIMIT EXPORTS. PACKERS ALSO WILL QUESTION NECESSITY OF SELF-RESTRAINT AT A TIME WHEN ORDERS FROM US IMPORTERS FOR CANNED MUSHROOMS ARE AT ALL-TIME HIGH. ACCORDING TO S.G. KOO, CHAIRMAN OF TMPUEC, IMPORTERS STATE THAT THERE WILL BE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF CANNED MUSHROOMS IN U.S. NEXT FISCAL YEAR OWING TO INCREASING DEMAND FOR FRESH MUSHROOMS. US GROWERS CONTINUE

TO BE UNWILLING TO SELL TO US CANNERS AT PRICE FAR BELOW
WHAT THEY CAN OBTAIN FOR FRESH MUSHROOMS.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE FOR
USE IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH WONG ON MUSHROOM PROBLEM.
UNGER

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Message Attributes

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